

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of immobilizing an oligonucleotide ~~a target molecule~~ to a solid support surface capable of interacting with the oligonucleotide ~~target molecule~~, which method comprises the steps of:

complexing the oligonucleotide ~~target molecule~~ with ~~a vesicular structure~~ ~~formed by~~ a solution containing cationic detergents, said ~~vesicular structure~~ cationic detergents capable of forming a dissociable complex with the oligonucleotide ~~target molecule~~,

contacting the complex formed with the solid support surface which comprises one member of a specific binding pair, to thereby bind the oligonucleotide ~~target molecule~~ to the surface through the other member of the binding pair which is conjugated to or part of the oligonucleotide,

dissociating the complex, and

removing the cationic detergents from the solid support surface to leave the oligonucleotide ~~target molecule~~ immobilized on the surface[[,]]

~~wherein the target molecule is a low molecular weight organic molecule or~~
oligonucleotide.

Claims 2-4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide ~~target molecule~~ and the solid support surface carry electric charges of a same kind.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~target molecule and the solid support surface each~~ carry a negative charge, ~~and the vesicular structure carries a positive charge.~~

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein binding of the oligonucleotide ~~target molecule~~ to the surface causes at least partial dissociation of the complex.

Claims 9-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the oligonucleotide ~~target molecule~~ is an artificial oligonucleotide.

Claims 14-16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 ~~claim 16~~, wherein the surface-bound member is avidin or streptavidin, and the oligonucleotide ~~target molecule~~ is biotin-tagged.

Claim 18 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the solid support surface comprises a hydrogel.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method according to claim 18, wherein the hydrogel is a dextran polymer hydrogel.

Claim 20 (original): The method according to claim 19, wherein the dextran comprises carboxymethyl groups.

Claim 21 (original): The method according to claim 20, wherein the carboxymethyl groups are activated to reactive groups.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The method according to claim 24 ~~claim 1~~, wherein ratio of oligonucleotide ~~target molecule~~ to CTAB ~~vesicular structure~~ is about 61:1 ~~1:1~~.

Claim 23 (cancelled)

Claim 24 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the cationic detergent vesicular structure is a micelle comprising cetyltrimethylammonium bromide (CTAB).

Claim 25 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is carried out in a flow cell.

Claim 26 (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the solid support is a sensor surface.

Claim 27 (original): The method according to claim 26, wherein the sensor surface permits detection of events at the surface by mass-sensing.

Claim 28 (original): The method according to claim 27, wherein the mass-sensing comprises evanescent wave sensing.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The method according to claim 28, wherein the evanescent wave sensing is surface plasmon resonance.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein the solid support is a chromatographic particle.

Claim 31 (currently amended): A method of sensitizing a solid support surface with a ligand, which method comprises the steps of:

providing a capture agent oligonucleotide for the ligand, which capture agent is capable of binding to the solid support surface,

complexing the oligonucleotide with a vesicular structure formed by a solution containing cationic detergents, said vesicular structure capable of forming a dissociable complex with the oligonucleotide,

contacting the complex formed with the solid support surface which comprises one member of a specific binding pair, to thereby bind the oligonucleotide to the surface through the other member of the binding pair which is conjugated to or part of the oligonucleotide,

dissociating the complex,

removing the cationic detergents from the solid support surface to leave the oligonucleotide immobilized on the surface, and

contacting the solid support surface with the ligand, which ligand is conjugated to a second oligonucleotide complementary to the capture agent oligonucleotide, to bind the ligand to the immobilized capture agent.

Claim 32 (cancelled)

Claim 33 (currently amended): The method according to claim 31, wherein different

discrete areas of the solid support surface supporting a general capture agent oligonucleotide are selectively contacted with different ligands to provide a solid support surface with an array of different ligands.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The method according to claim 31, wherein different discrete areas of the solid support surface, each supporting a different capture agent oligonucleotide, are contacted with different ligands to provide a solid support surface with an array of different ligands.

Claim 35 (original): The method according to claim 31, wherein the solid support surface is a sensor surface.

Claim 36 (withdrawn, currently amended): A method for assaying a sample for at least one analyte, which method comprises contacting the sample with a solid support surface sensitized with at least one analyte-binding ligand by ~~to~~ the method according to claim 31, and detecting binding of the analyte to the surface.

Claim 37 (withdrawn, currently amended): A method for studying analyte-ligand binding interactions, which method comprises contacting at least one analyte with a solid support surface sensitized with at least one analyte-binding ligand by ~~to~~ the method according to claim 31, and studying binding interactions between analyte ~~analyte~~ and ligand at the surface.

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Claims 38-44 (cancelled)